

January 15, 1976

we are turning our back and we are throwing out all kinds of scarecrows.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers. We are still on the Lewis amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What is his amendment?

CLERK: Read amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm going to wait until we get back on the bill, I won't talk on this.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the body, I would like to ask Senator Lewis a question if I may. Senator Lewis to be real sure what your amendment does, do I understand that that deletes the provision for crossover?

SENATOR LEWIS: That is absolutely correct.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis, would you care to close on your amendment.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, it is very simple that there are two parts to the Constitutional amendment which is always bad, because it puts you in a position that you have to buy all or nothing. I can not accept the open primary concept. I can not vote for this bill with that open primary in it. I certainly can vote for the bill, and I certainly have supported over the last three years in the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee and Senator Luedtke knows that along with Senator Waldron, going back three years ago, the idea of shortening the primary. Because you just can't go home and justify to the people and say that we have a long primary because of the all star primary. That is the only reason that we have it. That is the only testimony that I have ever heard before that committee for having it. That is the only person I had ever heard do that. The idea there is I think that we now have a good idea moving forward now to shorten the primary. The crossover is going to mess it up. I would ask you to take out the open primary, leave the shortened primary and move the bill out and lets see how the people feel about it. You remember that we have one more step to go, and that is for the people to determine that too.

PRESIDENT: The question is the adoption of the Lewis amendment to LB120. Record your vote. Have you voted? Record.

CLERK: 28 nays 7 nays.

PRESIDENT: Amendment is adopted. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I'll be very brief, even briefer now, because the heart has been taken from the bill. From my point of view. The only redeeming feature has now been killed. Senator Lewis through a method ingenious as well as ingenious has succeeded in killing the bill that I think, without putting a kill motion on it. But, since we are discussing these issues and there may be people in the future that might look back on our floor debate today and I would like to ask Senator Luedtke a couple of questions for the record, do you mind Senator Luedtke.